



Media release

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New e-beam² can eliminate steel from stick roofs

A new Laminated Veneer Lumber (LVL) roofing system from Wesbeam offers the potential for stick roofs to be constructed without the use of steel.

e-beam² combines Wesbeam's e-beam and e-splay products with easy to use span tables for specifiers and quick connection details for carpenters to create a comprehensive roofing system.

"From talking to specifiers we identified the need for an LVL system that was modelled on the way specifiers were used to working with steel," Wesbeam Sales and Marketing Manager Denis Cullity said.

"With the e-beam² specification system, it takes just three quick steps to select the right beams for any job, This makes the transition from steel to LVL simple and pain-free."

To develop e-beam² Wesbeam worked closely with roof carpenters and MiTek Australia to create carpenter-friendly connection details that enable quick beam to beam connection.

"We needed off the shelf solutions to connect the LVL beams together and MiTek's SplitHanger fitted the bill perfectly," Denis said.

"For the non-90 degree solution no off the shelf solution existed so we developed the unique e-ledger in conjunction with WA specifiers and carpenters."

By using a MiTek SplitHanger or a Wesbeam e-ledger a fully engineered connection detail is assured for all load conditions in the e-beam² span tables.

One of Perth's largest home builders, Dale Alcock Homes, has already converted over to e-beam².

The 2008 winner of the Housing Industry Association's National Professional Major Builder of the Year award, Dale Alcock Homes has started using the e-beam² system in all of its new house designs.

For a company that builds more than 600 houses a year, that is a major commitment, according to Dale Alcock Homes' Peter Arcus.

"Wesbeam LVL is strong, straight and light – so easy to work with both from a design point of view and for the roof carpenters who actually construct the roof," Peter said.

"We now use LVL in all of our house designs, which means that we have been able to significantly reduce the amount of steel we need. As a result, we save on crantage – although we can't eliminate cranes from building sites altogether, we have been able to reduce our reliance on them."

Dale Alcock Homes has access to the 24/7 technical support offered by Wesbeam as part of its service, ensuring that the transition to e-beam² has been straightforward.

"We see e-beam² as a perfect example of the Wesbeam philosophy – where great outcomes are achieved when builders and industry suppliers such as Wesbeam and MiTek work in partnership to create innovative and practical solutions," Denis Cullity said.

For more information about ebeam² go to wesbeam.com or telephone (08) 9306 0400.

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